

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with deleted material crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for guiding a medical instrument to a target site within a patient, the method comprising:

capturing at least one intraoperative ultrasonic image from the patient;

identifying a spatial feature indication of a patient target site on the intraoperative ultrasonic image,

determining coordinates of the patient target site spatial feature in a reference coordinate system, said reference coordinate system not defined in terms of the ultrasonic image,

determining a position of the instrument in the reference coordinate system,

displaying a view from the perspective of the instrument in the reference coordinate system, and

displaying on the displayed view a set of indicia identifying the position of the target site with respect to the instrument, wherein herein the set of indicia is not a geometric representation of the target.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said medical instrument is a source of video and the view field ~~projected onto the display device~~ is the an image seen by the video source.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed view is that seen from the tip-end position and orientation of the medical instrument having a defined field of view.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the perspective of the medical instrument comprises a field of view and an orientation of the medical instrument, wherein the displayed view is seen from a position along the axis of instrument different from a tip-end position of the medical instrument.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising using an ultrasonic source to generate the ultrasonic image of the patient, and determining coordinates of the spatial feature indicated on said image from the coordinates of the spatial feature on the image and the orientation of the ultrasonic source.

Claims 6-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating a medical procedure involving navigation of a medical instrument towards a target site in a patient, the method comprising;

- (a) capturing at least one intraoperative ultrasonic image from the patient;
- (b) receiving at least one location on the ultrasonic image as the location of the target site;
- (c) from the received location, calculating the location of the target site with respect to the orientation of the instrument;
- (d) from the perspective of the instrument, displaying a view of the patient;

(e) displaying in real time a set of indicia that identifies the location of the target site in the displayed view, in order to facilitate the navigation of the medical instrument towards the patient target site.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

defining a reference coordinate system;

wherein calculating the location of the target site comprises computing the coordinates of the target site in the reference coordinate system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising using the calculated coordinates of the target site to generate the location of the set of indicia in the displayed view.

Claims 14-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the intraoperative ultrasonic image is an image captured during an operation on the patient.

19. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the intraoperative ultrasonic image is an image captured during an operation on the patient.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein capturing at least one intraoperative ultrasonic image, identifying the spatial feature indication of the patient, determining coordinates of the patient target site spatial feature, determining the position of the instrument, displaying the view and displaying on the displayed view the set of indicia are iteratively performed.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein performing the iteration allows for the capture of movement by the patient during an operation.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein performing the iteration allows for the capture of respiration by the patient during an operation.